

Knoxville

Parks and Recreation Guide

www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation

Special supplement
to the News Sentinel

Thursday, October 22, 2015





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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Guide, which is our way of inviting you to explore every recreation opportunity possible in Knoxville!

Access to parks and recreation is essential to our city's quality of life; working with our many dedicated partners, we have seen significant progress in the last year.

Work has started on what will eventually be a three-mile river walk on the South Waterfront, which will include the 8-acre Suttree Landing Park, Knoxville's first new park in a decade. The two-mile Knox/Blount Greenway will connect across the Tennessee River to the existing downtown greenway system.

City Council agreed with me on the need to set aside \$2 million for new greenway connection projects. We have also invested money to build more sidewalks and bike lanes to make it easier for neighbors to reach nearby greenways and parks.

Expansion continues for Knoxville's Urban Wilderness, and Lakeshore Park is also making significant strides.

Our work with Knox County on fighting childhood



TRACI MCDONELL, KNOXVILLE CITY WEBMASTER

Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero tries pickleball for the first time at the opening of the first outdoor pickleball courts, in West Hills Park.

obesity has earned us a Number 1 ranking in the country in the National League of Cities Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Counties initiative. First Lady Michelle Obama mentioned some of our programs as success stories in a White House ceremony just last month.

Being an avid paddler, I was particularly excited to have Chad Pregracke, 2013 "CNN Hero of the Year," and his organization, Living Lands and Waters, visit Volunteer Landing this year with their barge. Working with local partners, they helped us clean up our waterways and promote the Tennessee River as the natural asset that it is.

I hope you find this guide helpful to better enjoying recreation in our beautiful city!

Sincerely,

Madeline Rogero

Madeline Rogero, Mayor

LETTER FROM DEPUTY TO THE MAYOR/CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



PHOTO PROVIDED

Christi Branscom finishes the 2014 Knoxville Covenant Health Half Marathon.

Dear neighbor,

Welcome to the 2015 Parks and Recreation Guide! I'm proud of all of the exciting news we have to share in this publication.

Knoxville has a lot of dirt moving for construction projects, and much of it's related to parks, greenways and pedestrian routes. These are important investments that will contribute to our community's growth.

Investing in recreation bears significant returns. Studies show that homes near parks and trails can sell for up to \$2,262 more than homes without such amenities, and outdoor tourism contributes \$6.3 billion to Tennessee's economy annually. These are benefits we want for Knoxville.

In collaboration with the City's development investment on the South Waterfront, Blanchard Calhoun Commercial has committed to a public-private partnership for redevelopment of the abandoned Baptist Hospital property. The

private investment is estimated at over \$160 million, and the property will eventually house multi-residential, student housing, retail and office space.

Meanwhile, Lakeshore Park redevelopment is making major strides. The park's 100 percent accessible Hank Rappé Playground, already visited by thousands, is a glimpse of what is yet to come for the 185-acre Lakeshore Park. This premier park is truly a gem that exemplifies how Knoxville's park spaces make our city more appealing to families and companies looking to relocate.

I hope you enjoy this guide, and that you experience personally the many benefits that our parks and recreation opportunities in Knoxville can bring to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Christi W. Branscom

Christi Branscom
Deputy to the Mayor & Chief Operating Officer

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh and his daughter, Katie, after zip lining in Puerto Rico.

Dear Knoxville Resident,

I am proud to present to you our latest edition of the Parks and Recreation Department's guide, to help you better understand what great amenities we have to offer the citizens of Knoxville. We continue to strive to provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities to all segments of our population. So whether you are an avid greenway user, compete on our various athletic fields, attend one of the many programs offered in our recreation centers or enjoy the amenities available in our 81 parks, we hope that this publication proves to be useful.

This has been an exciting year for our department. We're witnessing new growth in our park system and we've also opened our newest paved greenway, the Knox/Blount Greenway,

running almost two miles along the Tennessee River.

Additionally, we've been able to add some new amenities to existing parks, including new water bottle filling "stations," allowing patrons to refill their used water bottles and avoid having to purchase more plastic bottles at the store. There are also three new playgrounds in town (Chilhowee Park, Dr. E.V. Davidson Recreation Center and Lakeshore Park). And at West Hills Park, we're proud to offer our first outdoor pickle ball courts. The facility includes six new courts offering enthusiasts an opportunity to play this exciting sport.

So, with our "rec" guide in hand I wish you good luck as you venture out to explore the many recreational opportunities in Knoxville. We live in a beautiful city and I encourage you to enjoy it!

Sincerely,

Joe Walsh

Joe Walsh, Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department Director

This section was produced by the Custom Publishing Division of the Knoxville News Sentinel.

For more information on this and other sections, contact Robin Helton at 342-6593.

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Enjoy fall colors in parks, at overlooks

By **LAURA AYO**

Custom Publishing correspondent

Knoxvillians don't need to trek to the Great Smoky Mountains to enjoy the red, gold and orange beauty of the fall foliage.

"We've got 81 parks and over 2,000 acres of park land ... and all of them have trees in them," says Joe Walsh, director of Knoxville Parks and Recreation. "You can enjoy the beauty of changing leaves right here in Knoxville."

Kasey Krouse, the City's urban forester, recommends the overlooks at Fort Dickerson and Sharp's Ridge Memorial parks as starting points. The diverse species of trees at Ijams Nature Center, Marie Myers Park and William Hastie Park also offer a front seat to fall's full array of color.

Krouse has identified 173 distinct species among the 30,000 trees he's inventoried on City property throughout Knoxville over the past three years. He's also been identifying trees that are notable due to their age, size or special features, such as a large water oak in Lakeshore Park, estimated to be at least 80 years old.

"Eventually, we want to get with the Tree Board and get a notable tree location map for folks," he says.

The map will be one more way Krouse can educate people about the value trees bring to a community and encourage them to enjoy them.

Studies show trees lead to cleaner air and water. The shade they provide helps lower energy bills. Their canopies serve as visual and noise buffers to nearby traffic. Their beauty increases property values, encourages tourism and, according to some studies, reduces crime, builds a sense of community, and improves emotional wellbeing and physical health.

Knoxville, Krouse says, has maintained a tree canopy coverage of 40 percent – the recommended average



PHOTO BY GARY HEATHERLY

Knoxville's trees show their autumn colors in this fall view from Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park.



PHOTO BY TRACI MCDONELL

Goats are winning the war against kudzu in Fort Dickerson Park.

for a city of its size – for nearly two decades.

"My goal is to try to maintain and have as much healthy, safe tree

canopy cover that we can throughout the city," he says.

In addition to planting between 500 and 600 new trees annually, Krouse also recently assisted in a project to repave golf cart paths at two city golf courses, advising staff how to root prune and use root deterrent mats to prevent the paths from buckling in the future as the trees grow.

Krouse has worked with the Tree Board to develop a list of native species trees that are suitable for planting in the area, as well.

The University of Tennessee, the Legacy Parks Foundation, the Aslan Foundation and the City have part-

nered in an effort to identify invasive exotic species of plants. Krouse is doing most of the legwork on that front, too.

To improve tree health and park accessibility, 18 goats spent the summer feeding on kudzu and other invasive plants on about 7 acres at Fort Dickerson Park.

Krouse also welcomes volunteers to help with invasive species removal, tree plantings and mulching projects.

"The more we can get out there and educate about tree care, the better our community will be in understanding trees are not just a landscape asset," he says.

Keeping rivers, creeks clean

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

More than 1,100 volunteers hauled a record 12 tons of trash out of Knoxville's rivers and creeks as part of Ijams Nature Center's 26th annual River Rescue event this year, which was part of the prestigious Tennessee River Tour event series.

Sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority and Keep Tennessee Beautiful, the event was a partnership with the widely respected Living Lands and Waters, which is led by Chad Pregracke, 2013 CNN Hero of the Year. City officials approached Pregracke to come to Knoxville as part of a seven-city, three-state Tennessee River Tour to raise water quality awareness.

Living Lands and Waters docked its "floating classroom" barge at Volunteer Landing for a week and displayed all of the trash pulled out during the Ijams River Rescue.

"Our goal with the Tennessee River Tour was to showcase the work already being done by local groups whose members have lovingly cared for our river for generations," says Mayor Madeline Rogero. "We also wanted to recruit new volunteers and create wider awareness about protecting the river, which is our water source, a major economic driver for our region and a scenic jewel."

Fifteen groups collaborated to offer planting of more than 2,000 trees, water quality classes for high school students on the barge and cleaning the river.

"Seeing the trash removed during the River Rescue collectively displayed on the barge was a great visual message," says Paul James, executive director at Ijams.

One Ijams staff member removed a hot tub, which was probably noticed most as residents toured the barge and viewed the garbage pile.

"But it's the less interesting stuff that's actually more damaging," says James. "There's a lot of Styrofoam and pieces of glass that are a more frequent



PHOTOS BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Neyland Greenway is an integral part of the route for football fans who dock at Volunteer Landing on the Tennessee River, creating the Vol Navy.



ABOVE: A healthier Fountain City Lake in a 2005 photo.

LEFT: The City is currently taking steps to correct problems with algae, which grows due to warm, shallow water that's stagnant and an overabundance of water fowl.

problem."

Those are the kinds of everyday discarded items that end up in the city's blueways and harm water quality and aquatic wildlife.

"By taking care of what we have, our rivers can be a great asset, not only for the wildlife ... but in Knoxville being more of an outdoor destination city," James says.

Tennessee River Tour accomplishments in Knoxville

12 tons of trash removed in Knoxville

19 tons of trash removed from the entire Tennessee River

Approx. 40 awareness stories reported by television, radio and print

162 high school students attended water quality workshops

1,625 trees planted along creek and river banks

176 tree planting volunteers

1,134 Ijams River Rescue volunteers

That's why the City contracts with Ijams for \$30,000 annually to clean the area's waterways on a daily basis. Two Ijams staff members navigate the river in a john boat and remove trash as well as fallen trees and other debris.

Water conservationists and city officials have also focused on educating the community about the role it plays in preserving Knoxville's waterways.

Ijams piloted a River Rangers program this past year that introduced teenagers to aquatic activities like canoeing while teaching them about erosion control and how to evaluate the health and biodiversity of a river.

"The philosophy is, if people really have a great time and feel a connection to the land, we will move them on an environmental spectrum," James says. "Dealing with water quality on the front end — preventing litter in the first place — is the real solution."

Education is also a key component in the city's plans to rehabilitate the 125-year-old spring-fed Fountain City Lake, the headwaters for First Creek.

"If we get good headwaters there, everything else downstream benefits," says David Hagerman, a city stormwater engineer overseeing the project.

The city already has repaired a leak in an earthen weir so the water levels at Fountain City Lake can deepen, a key step in combatting a growing algae problem in the lake. The city also

Greenways add options for pedestrians and bicyclists

By KATHLEEN GIBI

Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department

Sometimes the only thing getting between Volunteer fans and a great tailgating party can be finding a parking spot.

Boat-owning fans have found the answer (and an additional way to support University of Tennessee football) by docking with the Vol Navy on Volunteer Landing and taking Neyland Greenway up to the like-named stadium.

Joe Walsh, Director of Knoxville Parks and Recreation, says it's helpful to remember the 18-mile system of downtown greenways when attending home football games.

"Our downtown greenway system connects hundreds of homes, running as far west as Bearden Elementary and as far east as Morningside Park," says Walsh. "Walking or biking on the greenway to the game is a great way to enjoy nature, get some exercise, and avoid the headache of fighting traffic and trying to find a parking space."

Parks and Recreation even offers \$10 parking in Tyson Park on game days. Patrons can walk Third Creek Greenway to the stadium or take a shuttle contracted by a nearby parking lot.

On a larger scale, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero says City officials are teaming up across departments to make Knoxville more pedestrian- and bike-friendly year-round.

"We're diversifying our city's transportation alternatives and increasing options for pedestrians and bicyclists," says Mayor Rogero. "This strengthens our city in a number of ways."

"Walking is a good way for neighbors to socialize. It helps local retailers to have pedestrians passing their



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Knoxville Area Transit buses serve Knoxville's greenways and other amenities, such as the Fountain City Skatepark.

Cumberland Avenue Project



storefronts. As we integrate walking or bicycling into our everyday lives, we improve our health. And lastly, walking and bicycling reduce our environmental

footprint because it means lower pollution emissions from vehicles."

Knoxville Area Transit uses its "KAT to Greenways" program to extend its routes. By lining up nearly 30 KAT stops adjacent to greenway trailheads and parks, practically every bus

route can be reached from a greenway or park. KAT buses are equipped with bicycle racks, and there's no fee for transporting a bicycle on a bus.

"The greenway/KAT combination creates a healthy, fun and environmentally friendly transportation network that we as a community can be really proud of," says Dawn Distler, Director of Transit for the City of Knoxville.

In 2012, Mayor Rogero created an Alternative Transportation Coordinator position in the Engineering Department, filled by Jon Livingood, to focus on identifying alternative pedestrian or bike options, including connections to greenways and parks.

As an example, City Traffic Engineering soon will mark bike lanes



Come Play in the Streets!

1 p.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 25, 2015

At Open Streets, people can walk, ride bicycles, hula hoop, and do zumba in the streets – all without the worry of traffic. There will be free Crossfit, yoga, and dance classes. Test your skills in a creative obstacle course, play with bubbles, or try an art activity. Central Street between Old City and Happy Holler.

www.OpenStreetsKnoxville.com

along a 0.8-mile stretch of Sevier Avenue from the Gay Street Bridge to Anita Drive in South Knoxville. Livingood says this will provide a comfortable bicycle route from the developing South Waterfront river walk (which will eventually span three miles) to the rest of downtown across the river.

The City has also pitched to the Tennessee Department of Transportation the installation of buffered bike lanes on North Broadway from Central Avenue to World's Fair Park. This would connect historic North Knoxville to World's Fair Park and the Second Creek Greenway.

Recently, Knoxville was designated a "Bronze Level" Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Mayor Rogero and City Council budgeted an extra \$2 million the past two years for new greenways plus increased funding for crosswalk/sidewalk improvements and additions.

WATER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

plans to repair the aeration system to improve the lake's circulation and create a wetlands area in the most shallow part of the lake.

By providing signs that encourage visitors to feed the ducks in a desig-

nated grassy area, the city hopes to eliminate food rotting on the sidewalks – and duck droppings – so they won't wash into the creek in the next storm.

Hagerman also hopes the wetlands will provide a natural diet for wildlife and encourage nesting.

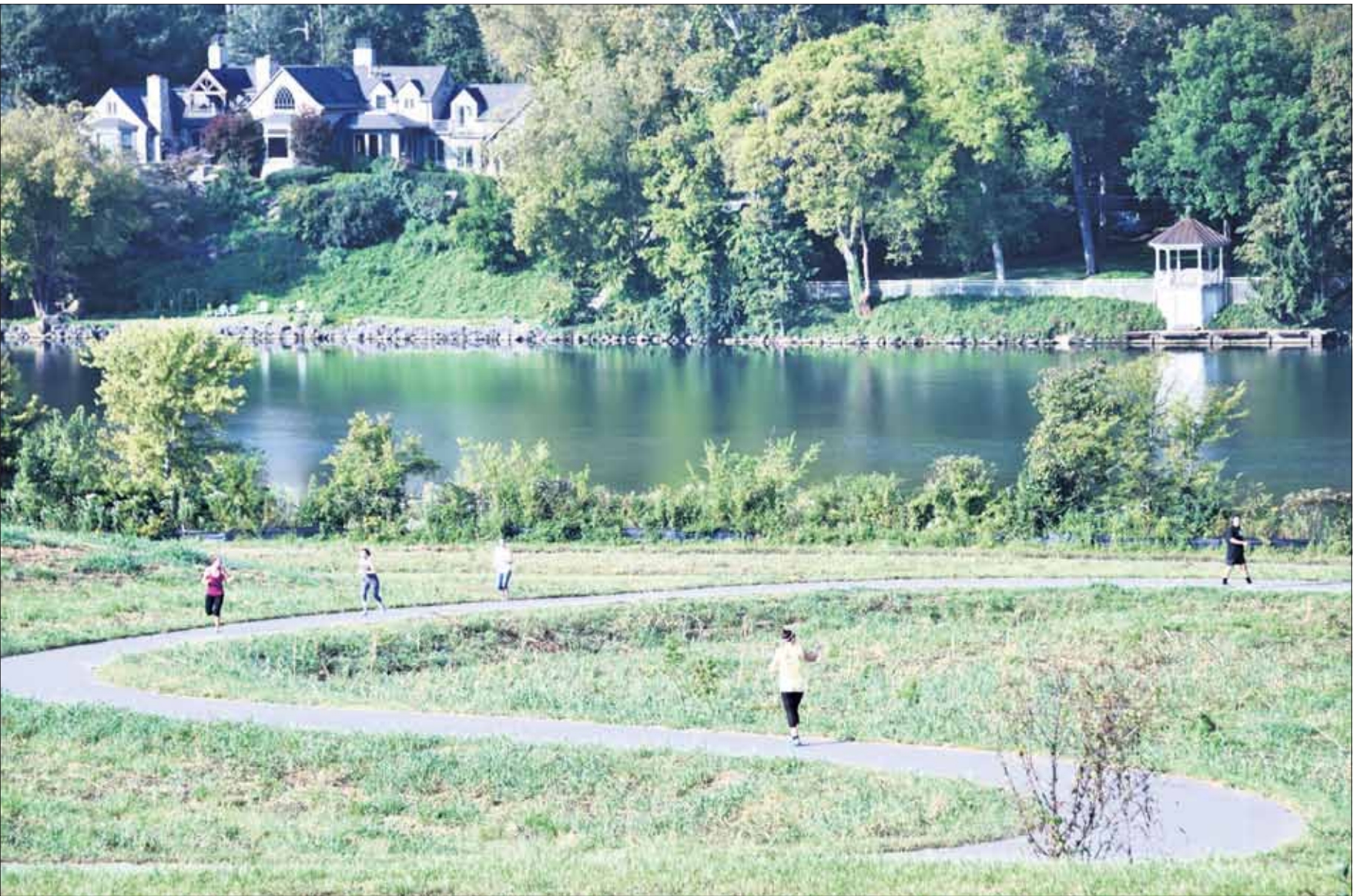
The city also offers an Adopt-a-

Stream program, which provides volunteers with training and equipment to remove trash from sections of a waterway.

While the city has installed booms at seven creeks to collect trash before it ends up in the river and the Ijams staff removes debris from the booms and

waterways, Hagerman says people can play their part by properly disposing of trash and pet waste.

"Typically, the trash you see in our waterways was not thrown directly into the water. Most of it was improperly disposed on land and is washed into the water during rains," he says.



Trail users enjoy spectacular views from the new Knox/Blount Greenway, which connects to Neyland Greenway on the other side of the Tennessee River via the "Buck" Karnes (Alcoa Highway) Bridge.

Linking together

Greenways multiply; partnerships increase trail diversity

Residents of the Oakwood-Lincoln Park neighborhood don't have to get in their cars any more to reach the nearby Sharp's Ridge trailhead.

"You can walk down the street," says Lori Goerlich, the City's parks and greenways coordinator.

Projects like the one to link the trails at Sharp's Ridge with the nearby neighborhood serve as an example of how City of Knoxville leaders have been working to make greenways and trails more accessible to its residents and visitors.

"We're bringing the trails to your neighborhoods so when you get home from work, you don't have to get back in your car to go exercise,"

says Brian Hann, chair of the Knoxville Greenways Commission and a past president of the Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, a group that organizes volunteers to build new trails for the city.

Partnerships between the city, the club and Legacy Parks Foundation have led to new trails in the Urban Wilderness Corridor and a new one-way, downhill mountain biking trail at Sharp's Ridge.

"It's the first thrill, gravity-type jumpline that Knoxville has seen," Hann says. "It's catered toward the different sects of the sport that really value the amount of time their wheels are in the air versus the amount of time their wheels are on the ground."

This summer, Knoxvilleans also rallied for a competition-level downhill gravity trail for the downtown area, beating out two other cities in an online competition to win \$100,000 from Bell Helmets to expand the City's Urban Wilderness, enhancing Knoxville as an outdoor destination.

"It's wonderful not only for mountain biking, but also the city trails," Goerlich says. "It reminds everyone of what wonderful assets we have, and winning that contest in our region and overall, shows that people outside see Knoxville as an outdoor destination."

Hann says construction on the downtown gravity trail began this month and will be completed in about three months.

"We will be the only true slope-style course in the Southeast and we'll definitely be the only one not at a ski resort where you don't have to pay to play," he says.

Knoxville Parks and Recreation is working on finalizing the completion of the Knox/Blount Greenway that will connect the north side of the Tennessee River to the south side via the "Buck" Karnes Bridge.

"It will be unique in that it will basically open up that area along the river," Goerlich says.

The City also recently completed designs to extend the First Creek Greenway to Fountain City.

"It opens up the creek by Fulton High School for people to experience the creek corridor there," Goerlich says. "It's a nice feature in such a tight,



Rich "Shaggy" Kidd tests out the new bridges and berms on the Wood Property's bike trail near Ijams Nature Center.

urban setting to be able to get near the creek to experience that."

City leaders are also looking ahead to how to connect existing greenways.

"We have (more than) 80 miles of greenways, but the more we get, the more people want," says Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh.

Greenways along the rivers and creeks have been built, and some trails are connected. Work continues to connect trails to each other, parks to trails and schools to parks to trails.

As part of its Greenway Corridor Feasibility Study Project, the Knoxville Greenways Commission and other city leaders have spent the past year identifying greenways that can be expanded or connected to other greenways or parks in the future.

"If we're going to continue the momentum we have had for the last few years, we need to do the planning now," Walsh says.

The study examines potential routes, obstacles, timelines, cost estimates and funding options for 13 possible trails, so city officials will have a detailed document to go to when

they're ready to move forward.

"It shows how tangible it is to connect these things up," Hann says.

Goerlich says residents who can access an interconnected greenway system are more likely to use it not just for recreational purposes, but also daily transportation to their jobs, restaurants, entertainment venues and shops.

"It's truly meant to not just be a recreational asset, but a part of your everyday life," she says. "If you know it has more continuous access, you're more likely to include that in your routine."

Continuous greenways also reduce pollution and traffic by decreasing the number of vehicles on roadways, and provide people with a healthy living option, Hann says.

"It's all about quality of life and giving our residents opportunities to have an active lifestyle and, I think, the most economical and one of the most enjoyable ways to do that are trails and greenways in our community," Hann says.

As part of its ongoing trail development program, the City has also

continued to identify sections of greenways, including the Northwest Greenway, that need to be repaved or repaired.

City officials have also been creating a map and database containing detailed information about its parks and greenways, such as level of difficulty, surface material and location of drinking fountains.

"We're updating and providing more detailed information for trail users to make a more informed decision about what meets their needs or what experience they're looking for," Goerlich says.

The City also participated in a project led by the Metropolitan Planning Commission and Visit Knoxville last fall to photograph trails and attractions like the Sunsphere with Google Trekker camera equipment.

"You can experience the trail virtually before you can go out and experience it in real life," Goerlich says. "It's another level of information we can offer."

To view the virtual routes through City trails, visit www.visitknoxville.com/trekker.

Parks enhance Knoxville's living space

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

The City of Knoxville is approaching redevelopment with the school of thought that a community thrives when its parks provide places for people to enjoy outdoor activities at their leisure.

"There's nothing like a park to enhance the community's living space," says Dawn Michelle Foster, director of redevelopment for the City of Knoxville.

Over the past few months, City leaders broke ground for a new park along the South Knoxville waterfront, opened three new playgrounds and have been transforming existing green spaces into more user-friendly places.

"We're trying to make Knoxville as amenity rich and interesting and beautiful as we can," says Christi Branscom, deputy to Mayor Madeline Rogero and the City's chief operating officer.

Because people have the ability to live anywhere they want, Branscom says Knoxville is competing with other cities across the country to be as attractive as possible.

"One way to do that is create as many opportunities and amenities as we can for people to spend their play time relaxing and enjoying time with their families," she says.

Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh agrees, saying this goal is to build parks that offer something for everyone.

"You want to have the best park system possible so you can take care of the people who are already here, but you also want to draw new people to your community," he says.

Foster envisions Suttree Landing Park, with its riverfront views and ties to the Urban Wilderness, will do both.

"We are redeveloping a former industrial site and ... it's going to be a jewel in the Old Sevier neighborhood," she says. "It will create a new



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

The newly opened Hank Rappé Universal Playground in Lakeshore Park

atmosphere where people can live, work and play."

The first new park in Knoxville in the past decade will span 8.25 acres along the Tennessee River and include a 1,900-foot riverwalk with overlooks, 1-acre festival lawn, boat dock, put-in ramp for non-motorized boats (like kayaks), playground, butterfly gardens and parking when it opens.

"We work to maintain and expand our existing parks, but when we get a new park, it's pretty special," Walsh says. "It will be one of those places you want to go to."

The 195-acre Lakeshore Park will be a similar draw, Branscom says.

After the closure of Lakeshore Mental Health Institute in 2012, the City acquired the Lakeshore Park property from the state of Tennes-



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Hank Rappé Universal Playground includes play structures that welcome all children.

see and entered into a public-private partnership to further develop the park for recreational use.

“It’s a real opportunity to create a nice city park for everyone to enjoy,” Branscom says.

The Hank Rappé Universal Playground, named after a 3-year-old boy who died in 2013 just two nights before he was to play his first tee-ball game at the park, opened there in September.

The new playground includes slides, swings and other play structures that can accommodate children of all abilities.

In addition, Lakeshore Park plans include adding about two more miles of greenway at the park.

“There are some very steep areas in that greenway,” Branscom says. “We have a 2.25-mile loop now and we will make a total of four miles of greenway. A great portion of that will be on more level, accessible ground so people of all levels can use the greenway in some kind of way.”

Other plans include creating a put-in ramp for non-motorized boats to access the Tennessee River, and dedicating passive park areas for people who want to picnic.

The City is also in the process of converting property in the Bearden area that used to be a gas station into a passive park named after the Everly Brothers.

“We are thrilled to be able to work with the neighborhood and (TDOT) to transform what was once a site that had hazardous materials and turn it into the beautiful green space that it is now,” Branscom says.

Walsh says plans for the park include a statue of the local legendary musicians Phil and Don Everly, who went to high school in Knoxville, and an outdoor amphitheater area. Funds are still being raised privately by neighborhood organizers to build the park.

This fall, the City also constructed a new playground at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center, which previously lacked an outdoor play space for the many children who attend the City’s after-school program there.

“Every year, we have money set



The rendering above shows the plan for the playground at Suttree Landing Park.



PHOTO BY ERIC VREELAND, KNOXVILLE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Officials broke ground for Suttree Landing Park this summer. Construction of the 8-acre riverfront park is underway and will be located directly across the Tennessee River from the Outdoor Knoxville Adventure Center.

aside for playground improvements and often times we replace an old, worn-out playground, but sometimes we build new ones in areas that need one,” Walsh says. “What we’re trying to do with new playgrounds is enhance motor skills to help children build upper body strength and build coordination.”

While the specifics aren’t available, plans are underway for a new downtown dog park, as well.

“We’re working hard to get that

started here in the next six months or so and we hope to get it open in the next year,” Branscom says.

For the first time in 30 years, the City also spent the summer repaving nine miles of golf cart paths at the city-operated Whittle Springs Golf Course and Knoxville Municipal Golf Course. Combined, the courses account for more than 50,000 rounds of golf each year.

The repaving project is part of the city’s ongoing efforts to ensure

Parks for everyone: A team of City of Knoxville staff is working with City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Cook to evaluate 20 facilities, including parks, for accessibility improvements. The team is even reassessing recreation programming to ensure that equal recreation opportunities are available to all Knoxville residents.

CITY OF KNOXVILLE DOG PARKS

- Dogwood Park @ Victor Ashe Park
- Holston River Petsafe Dog Park
- Petsafe Downtown Dog Park
- Charter Doyle Petsafe Dog Park

that all of its residents can access and enjoy its parks, greenways and recreation spaces.

“We want to keep reinvesting in our community,” Branscom says. “Reinvesting in our parks is the perfect way to achieve that.”

CITY OF KNOXVILLE
MADELINE ROGERO, MAYOR

Parks & Recreation

Your recreation destination guide!



Between the Smoky Mountains, the Tennessee River, and East Tennessee's famous green hills and landscape, Knoxville is an ideal setting for recreation.

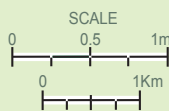
This parks map is designed to help you find the most convenient recreation opportunities perfect for you and your family. Explore over 2,000 acres of park space and 85 miles of greenways and trails to find your favorite park amenity.



A wide array of Parks and Recreation information, including downloadable forms, directions to facilities, printable maps, program and league listings, greenway lap calculators, and so much more are available at www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation. To contact the City of Knoxville, please call 311.

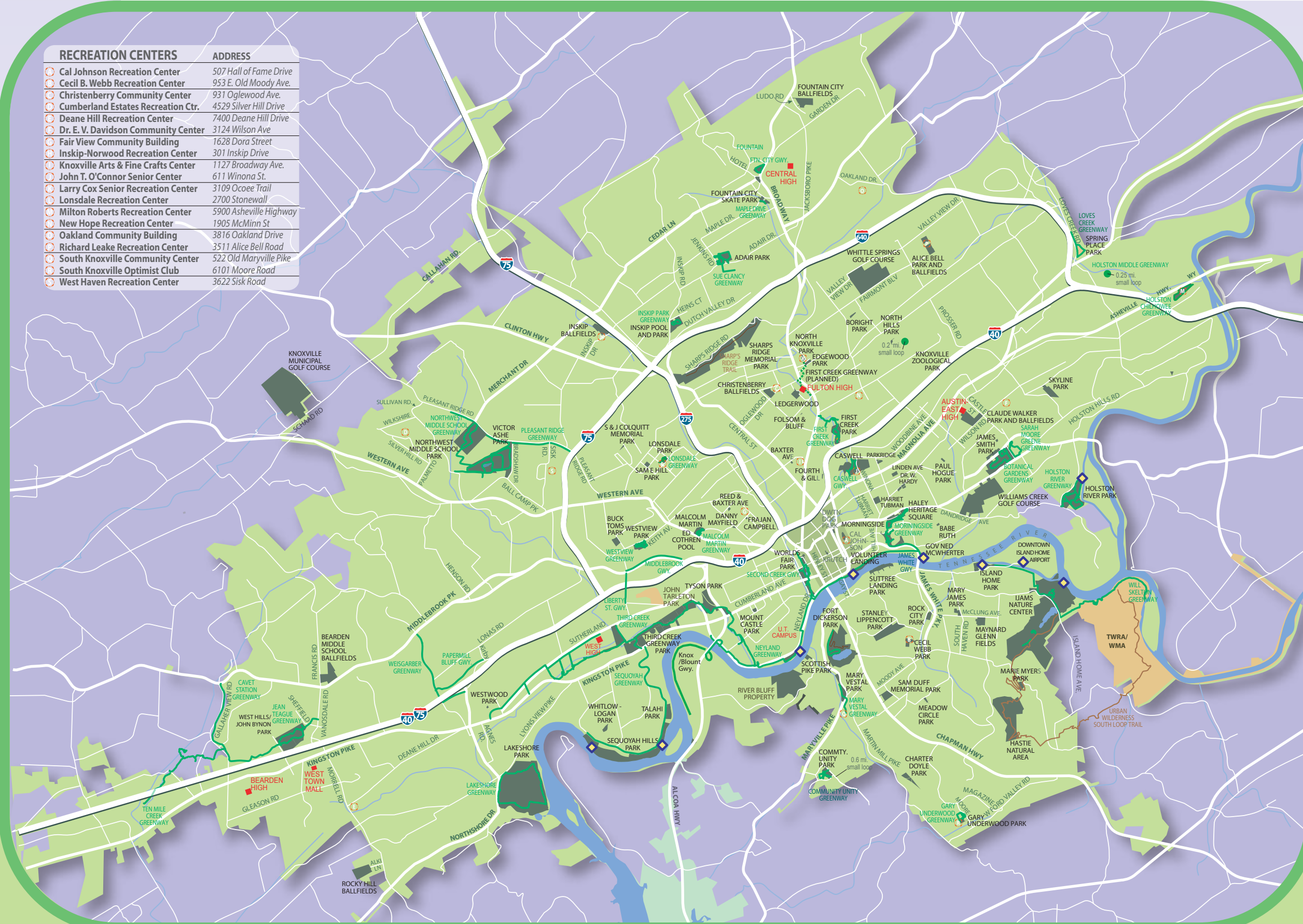
MAP LEGEND

Knoxville City Limits	Knox County	School
Greenway	Greenway In Progress	Recreation Ctr.
Simple Park	Larger Park	Other Park
Creek	Body of Water	Blueway



Updated: Oct. 2015

RECREATION CENTERS	ADDRESS
Cal Johnson Recreation Center	507 Hall of Fame Drive
Cecil B. Webb Recreation Center	953 E. Old Moody Ave.
Christenberry Community Center	931 Oglewood Ave.
Cumberland Estates Recreation Ctr.	4529 Silver Hill Drive
Deane Hill Recreation Center	7400 Deane Hill Drive
Dr. E. V. Davidson Community Center	3124 Wilson Ave
Fair View Community Building	1628 Dora Street
Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center	301 Inskip Drive
Knoxville Arts & Fine Crafts Center	1127 Broadway Ave.
John T. O'Connor Senior Center	611 Winona St.
Larry Cox Senior Recreation Center	3109 Ocoee Trail
Lonsdale Recreation Center	2700 Stonewall
Milton Roberts Recreation Center	5900 Asheville Highway
New Hope Recreation Center	1905 McMinn St
Oakland Community Building	3816 Oakland Drive
Richard Leake Recreation Center	3511 Alice Bell Road
South Knoxville Community Center	522 Old Maryville Pike
South Knoxville Optimist Club	6101 Moore Road
West Haven Recreation Center	3622 Sisk Road



Social media

With a robust Knoxville Parks and Recreation social media presence including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, it's easy to stay on top of the latest recreation projects, leagues, events and more.

Knoxville Parks and Recreation periodically holds social media contests where followers have the chance to win recreation packages. This past July, for example, more than 100 photos were submitted in the department's "Selfie with a Statue" contest. Keep an eye out for future contests on Knoxville Parks and Recreation's various social media accounts for a chance to win!



Amy Dudley takes a selfie of her family (Front: Susan Farr and Chris Borte; Back: Cora Dudley-Borte and Leo Dudley-Borte) in front of the Tennessee Women's Suffrage Memorial statue on Market Square.

www.facebook.com/knoxvillerecreation

www.twitter.com/knoxvilleparks

www.youtube.com/knoxvilleparksandrec

www.instagram.com/knoxvillerecreation

Recently, Knoxville Parks and Recreation began issuing a seasonal program newsletter, and the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center offers a seasonal newsletter.

To explore Knoxville's recreation system, pick up a City Greenways Map (all greenways and trails) or a City Blueways Map (all river access points).

Call **311 (865-215-4311)** to have any printed recreation publication mailed to your home for free today!

As of late 2015, Knoxville Parks and Recreation is implementing online league registration and facility rentals. Residents will now be able to pay for leagues, classes and rentals online. (www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation)

Knoxville expands recreational play choices

On a recent Monday evening, a retired couple volleyed a neon green plastic ball with ping-pong-style paddles over a low-strung net at the City of Knoxville's new outdoor pickleball courts.

Knoxville Parks and Recreation converted two aging tennis courts at West Hills/John Bynon Park into six pickleball courts as part of its efforts to offer nontraditional sports to the community.

"Now, it's not just that you get to choose between baseball, softball and basketball," says Aaron Browning, the City's athletics coordinator. "People know they have options and choices and freedom to do what they wish with their recreational time. Having the outside courts gives people the opportunity to go play pickleball at their leisure."

In addition to the outdoor courts, which Mayor Rogero and City Council dedicated Sept. 14, the city has also refinished gym floors at Christenberry, Deane Hill and Milton Roberts recreation centers to include three pickleball courts each, while Inskip-Norwood and Lonsdale rec centers each have one court. Open play times vary from center to center.

"This fall, we plan to add a permanent indoor pickleball court at the South Knoxville Community Center since there has been such a great response there with the temporary taped lines," Browning says of the growing sport that is a hybrid of tennis, badminton and Ping-Pong.

Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh says City leaders strive to stay current with alternative sports people in the community want to play, whether it's Bubble Soccer, FootGolf or disc golf.

"We try to appeal to all groups," he says. "We also want to remind people that exercise can be fun."

The Whittle Springs Golf Course opened a 9-hole FootGolf course last summer so players could kick a regulation soccer ball into 21-inch diameter holes from designated tees on the green. The course opens on



JEREMIAH HARRIS

Patricia Robledo shoots to sink one for the team as Christine Fitzgerald and Crista Cuccaro look on at Whittle Springs Golf Course.



PROVIDED BY KNOXVILLE BUBBLEBALL

A Bubble Soccer competition.

Wednesdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.

With input from the elementary school students who now use it, the city also added a 9-hole junior disc

golf course at Inskip Park last summer, offering enthusiasts of the sport an alternative to other courses in the area that have longer distances be-

tween the tees and the elevated metal basket targets.

"Victor Ashe Park was once named 'Best Disc Golf Course in the South' by Disc Golf Magazine," Browning says. "It's a longer, more challenging course. Inskip's course is friendlier to beginners — even for kids."

The city has also arranged for the owner of Knoxville Bubbleball to use city parks and rec centers to host pay-to-play Bubble Soccer events involving full-contact soccer matches in which players kick the ball while their upper bodies are nestled inside inflatable balls resembling bubbles.

"Knoxville seems to be an area where people take something and run with it and try new things, and I love that aspect of our town," Browning says.



Youth cross-country events take place in Victor Ashe Park year round.

Knoxville Youth Athletics
@ Victor Ashe Park

www.knoxvilleyouthathletics.org

- Oct. 24: Tennessee State Elementary and Middle School Cross Country Championships
- Oct. 27: Post Season Cross Country practice begins 4:45-6:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday
- Oct. 29: TSSAA Regional Championships (High School)
- Nov. 7: AAC Cross Country Championships (College)

Get to know all youth sports leagues,
and try them out, too, at the
Let’s Move! Event

Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Victor Ashe Park

Explore a greenway of activities – for free!

www.letsmoveknox.com

Knoxville Track Club
www.ktc.org/youth.html

- Jan. 30: Covenant Kids Run Kickoff @ the Knoxville Zoo
- February-March: KTC Youth Winter Greenway Series
- April 2: Covenant Marathon Kids Run (5:30 p.m.)
- July-September: KTC Summer Youth Greenway Series



JEREMIAH HARRIS PHOTOS

Serena Peters competes for Cedar Bluff Middle School in a fall youth cross country meet.

CITY OF KNOXVILLE ADULT SPORTS LEAGUE FACTS

	Kickball (Co-Ed)	Softball (Co-Ed)	Volleyball (Co-Ed)
Games in a Season	8 games	8 games	8 games
Format	Up to 11 in field (4 females)	10 (5 male/5 female)	6 (2 females)
Minimum to Avoid Forfeit	8 (4 of each gender)	9 (4-5 each gender)	4 (min. 2 females)
Match/Game Length	7 innings or 55 minutes	7 innings or 60 minutes	Best of 3 games to 25
Officiated	1 Umpire	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper	2 Referees
Gear You Need to Bring		Softballs, Bats, Gloves	
You Don't Need to Bring	Kickballs		Volleyballs
Rainout Procedure	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter
Cost	\$275/team	\$275/team or \$450/2 nights	\$180/team
Tournament	Single Elimination	Double-Elimination	Single Elimination
Tournament Team Fee	None	\$55/team	None
	Adult Baseball	Basketball (Men's & Women's)	Softball (Men)
Games in a Season	14 games	8 games	8 games
Format	9 players	5 on 5	10 (4 outfielders)
Minimum to Avoid Forfeit	8	5	9
Match/Game Length	7 innings or 2 hours	2 16 minute halves	7 innings or 60 minutes
Officiated	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper	2 Referees + Scorekeeper	2 Umpires + Scorekeeper
Gear You Need to Bring	Balls, Helmets, Catcher's		Softballs, Bats, Gloves
You Don't Need to Bring		Basketball	
Rainout Procedure	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter	Check InfoLine/Twitter
Cost	\$980/team	\$350/team or \$550/2 nights	\$275/team or \$450/2 nights
Tournament	Double-Elimination	Double-Elimination	Double-Elimination
Tournament Team Fee	\$100/team	\$55/team	\$55 team

Youth Commissions

- Baby Roadrunners**
football
Melvin Tate, melvin.tate40@gmail.com
- Bearden Youth Baseball**
baseball
Brad Day, bysbaseball14@gmail.com
- Bearden Youth Football**
football
Bob Dixon, bbdixon9@gmail.com
- Center City Youth Sports (CCYSP)**
football, basketball, baseball/softball
Anita Riley, anitariley01@hotmail.com
- East Knoxville Athletics (EKAA)**
football, basketball, baseball/softball
William Anderson,
William.anderson@knoxschools.org
- Fountain City Youth Sports**
basketball, baseball/softball
Elizabeth DeBusk,
Elizabeth@fountaincitysports.org
- Holston-Chilhowee Youth Sports**
baseball/softball
Julie Townsend, julietown12@comcast.net
- Knox Youth Sports (KYS)**
basketball, baseball/softball
Ann Marie Conaty, kysamc@aol.com
- Knoxville Falcons**
football, basketball, baseball/softball
Larry Cox, larrygibbscox@aol.com
- New Breed**
football, basketball
LaTonya Washburn, washburn21@gmail.com
- North Knox Athletics**
football, baseball/softball
Terohn Heinrich, terohnheinrich@yahoo.com
- Rocky Hill Baseball**
baseball
Ronnie Collette, ronniecollette@knology.net
- South Knoxville Youth Sports (SKYS)**
football, basketball, baseball/softball
Julia Weissinger, weissingerj@comcast.net
- West Bearden Basketball League (WBBL)**
basketball
Robert Hewgley, Robert@wbbleague.com
- West Youth Football**
football
Chris Smith, chris.smith@elavon.com

City Adult Sports

www.knoxvilleathletics.com for all league details

- Basketball (Recreational, Competitive, Women's)**
Winter, Summer
- Baseball**
Summer
- Kickball (co-ed)**
Spring, Fall
- Softball (men's, co-ed)**
Spring, Fall
- Volleyball (co-ed 6v6)**
Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

Don't have a team? Contact City Athletics at 311 to add your name to the Free Agent List



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

An exercise class at the Knoxville Adaptive Recreation Center, which has a heated therapy pool.

Finding innovative ways to keep people moving

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

After training for four months in the pool at the South Knoxville Community Center, South Knoxville resident Molly Myers earned six gold medals – one for each swimming event she entered – this summer in the Tennessee Senior Olympics.

“I set a state record in the 200 IM,” she says of her 4:03:59 time in the 200-yard individual medley race for women aged 65 to 69. “The facility here is really nice and for the amount of money that you spend, you just can’t beat it.”

The 66-year-old swimmer, who also took gold in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke events, prepared by swimming laps and taking water aerobics classes three to four days a week for two hours each day at the commu-

nity center.

Myers is among many Knoxvilleans who take advantage of the free facilities and low-cost programming available at the city’s 12 recreation centers and three senior centers.

Three of the centers offer swimming lessons and other aquatic programs in their outdoor or indoor pools, including the Knoxville Adaptive Recreation Center, which has a heated therapy pool.

“Our purpose is to serve the public and give them different types of recreation experiences,” says Angie Davidson, the city’s recreation program coordinator. “A good bit of our programming is on greenways, hiking trails, blueways and in our parks.”

The Larry Cox Senior Center hosts a hiking club that explores a different trail each month.

Activities, which vary from center to center and evolve based on popular demand, include line dancing, bridge, yoga, crafts, life-sized foosball and walking groups for people of all ages and abilities.

“If you get a group of people recreating together, there’s a social aspect to it, as well,” Nikki Crutcher, interim superintendent says. “You’re meeting a lot of people and making connections with people who have the same interests as yourself.”

Myers regularly brings her 97-year-old mother to listen to the live Friday morning Pickers and Grinners music jam sessions at the center in South Knoxville.

Other centers host community dances, lunch-and-learns on various health topics, as well as outings and overnight trips.

“There’s something for everyone,” says Davidson, who is also a recreation therapist. “We focus on a holistic approach – the social impact, the physical aspect and the cognitive aspect. When you participate in an activity, we really try to assess and look at what people can get out of each activity because everyone is going to achieve something different.”

Another recreation therapist, Daniel Alexander at Inskip-Norwood Recreation Center, leads a Dynamic Sports program where individuals with disabilities can participate in adaptive activities such as wheelchair basketball and bocce ball.

“We are trying to make the programs we offer accessible to anyone in the public and affordable, and we try to find innovative ways to keep people moving,” Davidson says.

“I played chess in high school, and I thought it would be important to help inner city youth to learn how to play the game. It’s a thinking game, so it helps them strategize and learn, hopefully having a positive impact on their life in general.”

Elijah Clark, center leader at Cal Johnson

Inspiring kids to reach for more in life

By **LAURA AYO**

Custom Publishing correspondent

A group of students spent a week this summer hiking, canoeing, rock climbing, paddle boarding and exploring all that the outdoors have to offer in Knoxville.

As part of an extension of its popular Summer Playground program, Knoxville Parks and Recreation introduced roughly 40 students to the city’s greenways, blueways, parks and historic sites through its Outdoor Urban program.

“Some kids, when they went rock climbing, said, ‘I don’t want to do this,’ but after they did it, they couldn’t stop talking about it and it became one of their favorite activities,” says Stephanie Josey, Cecil Webb Recreation Center leader. “It shows them new opportunities that Knoxville has to offer.”

The program, which served as a bridge between the Summer Playground program and the start of the school year, is one of several ways leaders of the city’s rec centers hope to inspire kids to develop lifelong habits that encourage them to lead active, healthy lives.

“Our objective is to get people moving and get people to experience different types of recreation and learn recreation they can do throughout their lives,” says Nikki Crutcher, the City’s interim recreation superintendent. “Our job is to teach and equip them on how to enjoy having a healthier lifestyle from that point into the future.”

It starts, she says, by teaching healthy eating habits to the roughly 1,000 students the city serves annually through its free after-school programs.

Each City recreation center has a full calendar of free or low-cost programs that can be viewed at www.knoxvilletn.gov/recreation.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Nicholas Seymour plans his next move during chess class at the Cal Johnson Recreation Center.

“We have one facility that is a N.E.A.T. certified facility,” she says.

Chistenberry Community Center received its Nutritional Education Activity Training (N.E.A.T.) certification from the Knox County Health Department a year ago, but Crutcher says all of the city’s 10 other rec centers where after-school programming is available offer a quality of healthy snacks and drinks to its participants.

None of the centers house soda machines, she says, and all of them provide ample opportunities for the children to be physically active.

“Our center leaders and staff provide exercise for them to get these kids mov-

ing,” Crutcher says.

Kids learn to play volleyball, tennis, disc golf and soccer. In the winter, the city brought over-sized golf clubs, tennis balls and targets into the centers to teach putting, chipping and driving skills in a fun modified indoor version of golf, according to Crutcher.

“It’s important that all kids have a chance, regardless of income, regardless of geographical area, to just at least get exposed to different sports,” she says.

Kids also get the chance to exercise their minds during the City’s free After School Program. Most centers have computer areas for homework or

playing card games. At Cal Johnson Recreation Center, kids are introduced to a new chess program.

“I played chess in high school, and I thought it would be important to help inner city youth to learn how to play the game,” said Elijah Clark, center leader at Cal Johnson. “It’s a thinking game, so it helps them strategize and learn, hopefully having a positive impact on their life in general.”

The pasttime is growing in city recreation centers, too. At Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center, a local chess club, Urban Town Chess, will be teaching chess to youth in the center’s After School Program.

New art director comes full circle

By TYLER STRONG

Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Knoxville's Arts and Fine Crafts Center has already served a generations of creative youngsters – as well as scores of artists, bakers, dancers and hobbyists of all ages.

One of the crafts center's former students will soon be doing her part to extend the center's mission to the next generation.

Elise Murphy has fond memories of being a 9-year-old and making gingerbread houses around Christmas time with Arts and Fine Crafts Center Director Cathy Maples.

Starting in November, a changing of the guard will occur. Murphy will assume the role of Director, taking the place of Maples, who has served as KAFCC Director for 20 years.

"We hate to see Cathy leave us for retirement as she has done such a great job since she started, but I am very pleased that we are getting such a fine, competent replacement," says Joe Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director. "Elise brings talent and experience as our new director."

"It's amazing how things come full circle," Murphy says. "Some of my favorite times growing up were taking the summer camp classes."

The KAFCC, located at 1127B Broadway, offers a broad range of year-round classes that focus on visual, performing and even culinary arts. Some of these classes include pottery-making, painting, drawing, adult ballet and cooking classes.

Classes cater to a wide variety of ages, from 3-year-olds to senior citizens. Best of all, Murphy explains, these classes also reach people at a wide range of experience levels.

"We have a lot of people who come in saying they don't have any art skills, but that's why we're here!" says Murphy. "This is a great, relaxing space where



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Judy Miller loads her paintbrush during an acrylic painting class at the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center.

you can come in, meet new people, and try something new."

A little-known fact is that people can also suggest classes they would like to see offered at the center. Murphy explains that if a class is not currently offered, or if you would like to recommend a new class to be started, the center can look into creating a new class built around the interest.



This peach galette, from a "make it, take it and bake it" workshop at the Craft Center, will be oven-ready when it gets home.

Not only is exposing the Knoxville community to the arts a priority of the KAFCC, but its staff also strives to relate programs to the regional history of Knoxville and the surrounding Great Smoky Mountains area. Many of the activities offered at the KAFCC, such as candle making and soap making, are traditional arts that have been a cultural staple of this area for centuries.

"The majority of guest instructors we bring in are not only knowledgeable in the skill itself," Murphy says, "but also in the history from which it is derived."

With so many classes, the Arts and Fine Crafts Center has something for everyone. You may even find a lifelong love for a new hobby that you had never dreamed of trying.

As Murphy says, all you have to do is take that step.

"We sometimes say to ourselves, 'Oh, I've always wanted to try this out.' Visit us, try things out, and let us help take you the rest of the way."

The Arts and Fine Crafts Center is open daily Monday through Saturday. Call the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center at 865-523-1401 for specific hours and class times. View a full list of classes at www.knoxvilletn.gov/KAFCC.

Parks named after famed local artists:

Haley Heritage Square - Morningside

Named after Alex Haley, famed author of "Roots: The Saga of An American Family" and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X." Haley lived in nearby Henning, Tennessee as a young boy in the 1920s.

James Agee Park - Fort Sanders

James Agee was born on Highland Avenue in the Fort Sanders neighborhood in 1909. Agee, in his career, was an author, screen writer, poet and film critic. His autobiographical novel, "A Death in the Family" (1957), earned him a posthumous Pulitzer Prize in 1958. James Agee Park is at the corner of Laurel Avenue and James Agee Street, which was renamed from 15th Street in Agee's honor.

Suttree Landing Park - South Knoxville Waterfront (under construction)

Named after the novel, "Suttree," by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Cormac McCarthy, published in 1979, the semi-autobiographical novel details the life of Cornelius Suttree, a fisherman on the Tennessee River. McCarthy spent most of his childhood in Knoxville and attended the University of Tennessee.

Everly Brothers Park - Bearden (under construction)

Though the Everly Brothers (Don and Phil Everly) were not Knoxville natives, they attended West High School when their family moved to Knoxville in 1953. It has been said that the Everly Brothers attribute their time in Knoxville to developing their sound that eventually fueled hits like "Bye Bye Love," "Wake Up Little Susie," and "Let It Be Me." Their 35 songs in the Billboard Top 100 earned the brothers a place in both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame.

Outdoor art



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE KNOXVILLE DOGWOOD ARTS FESTIVAL

This American Dog statue was brought to Knoxville by the Dogwood Arts Festival brings new public art in to Knoxville annually for display.

Dogwood Art in Public Places

www.dogwoodarts.com/art-in-public-places/

Between permanent and seasonal public art, more than 50 outdoor pieces are on display throughout Knoxville, with many in parks and on greenways. Knoxville's Dogwood Arts Festival brings in new public art annually at the beginning of dogwood flowering season. The Knoxville Arts and Culture Alliance has created a map that identifies more than 40 permanent public art pieces. More art can be viewed at the Knoxville Museum of Art at World's Fair Park, where admission is free.

Knoxville Public Art Collection Map

knoxvillepublicart.com/current-collection/



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE ARTS AND CULTURE ALLIANCE OF GREATER KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

The Alex Haley statue at Haley Heritage Square.

Making art come alive

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

Country music artist Reba McEntire will share why she's grateful for pin oak trees with anyone strolling through Knoxville's parks who takes the time to listen.

"Knoxville has its own proud heritage of music and its own music scene, and we thought a program that married the outdoors and an appreciation of trees with music would appeal to the city of Knoxville," says Paul Kingsbury, communications director for the Tennessee chapter of the Nature Conservancy.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Singer Reba McEntire is one of many performing artists providing informational videos that park users can access to learn more about the trees surrounding them. Park users can employ their mobile devices to scan QR codes embedded on identification plaques affixed to selected trees throughout Victor Ashe and Morningside parks.

Knoxville Parks and Recreation teamed up with the non-profit conservation organization to bring its "If Trees Could Sing" program to 48 trees in Victor Ashe and Morningside parks in July.

Park users interested in learning more about the trees surrounding them can access informational videos recorded by artists like McEntire by using their mobile devices to scan QR codes embedded on identification plaques affixed to selected trees throughout those parks.

The program is one way musicians and performance artists have been able to share their talents to make art come alive in Knoxville's parks and recreation centers.

The city also sponsors the Knoxville Community Band, a diverse group of volunteer musicians who perform free concerts in city parks and other venues.

"We play a lot of marches and medleys from Broadway musicals," says Larry Hicks, the band's di-

rector. "We play toe-tappers and things that people know and can sing along with."

This month, KCB saluted American jazz and performed modern selections at Market Square. The band kicks off its season at the annual Rossini Festival and will conclude with a holiday concert on Dec. 6 at the Bijou Theater.

Teenagers across the city have also begun planning new performances for the annual Teen Step Show in March.

The show, in which teams compete for prizes by showcasing high-energy step routines, grew out of an after-school program at the Dr. E.V. Davidson Community Center. Entering its 11th year, the show averages about 150 participants from across the country and draws thousands of spectators.

"It keeps them healthy and active," says Darrow Davenport, center leader at E.V. Davidson. "At the same time, the people who are coaching or sponsoring the teams are mentoring these kids to go to (college)."

Fraternities and sororities at the University of Tennessee give contestants an exclusive tour of the university's campus, and scholarship money is available to the team and individual with the best grade point average.

Nikki Crutcher, acting superintendent, says it's been rewarding to see how some participants have gone on to support the show years after performing.

"We had a West High School freshman who participated our first year," she says.

"He stepped in the show all four years, graduated and became a coach and now has his own team that won it last year."

Singing Tree maps

Downloadable park maps showing the location of trees with If Trees Could Sing plaques are available on the Nature Conservancy website: www.nature.org/iftreescouldsing.



The Knoxville Community Band will perform a free Christmas concert in the Bijou Theatre on Dec. 6, 2015.

Community gardens promote local food

Students this fall have been busy planting cool-season vegetables like broccoli and lettuce in a new garden at the New Hope Recreation Center.

The City of Knoxville partnered with the University of Tennessee Gardens to build the raised beds at New Hope and Cumberland Estates recreation centers this September.

"It's just another example of how we can educate our families in a variety of communities about the ease and benefit of growing your own food," says Angie Davidson, program coordinator for the city's community centers.

Thanks to a donation by the William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation, participants will be able to learn how to grow vegetables through most of the year.

These two newly-tilled gardens at City recreation centers are part of a larger City effort to promote local food in Knoxville. Building from community ideas generated for Knoxville's proposal for the 2012 Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge, the City works with partners to increase access to healthy, fresh, and local foods in Knoxville's urban core.

"We want to make it easier for residents to grow their own food right here in Knoxville," says Mayor Madeline Rogero.

This past year, the City changed its zoning ordinance to remove barriers to community gardens and launched a new online map showing the locations of community gardens and farmers' markets across the region.

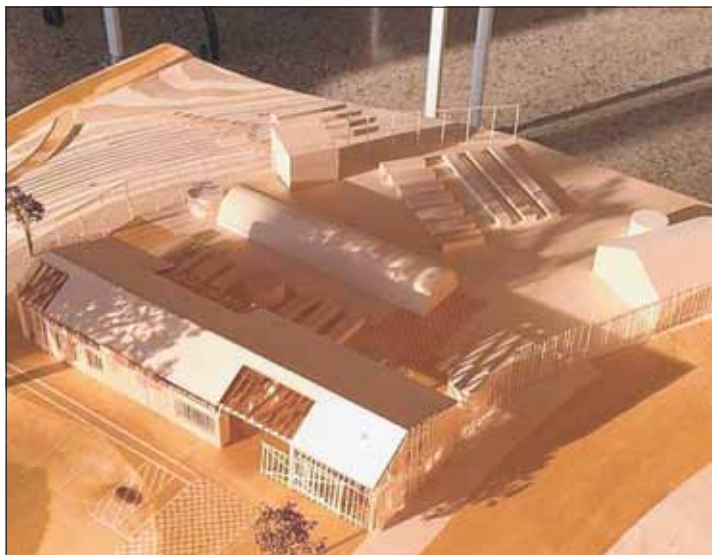
"Community gardens offer a way for residents to interact with the natural environment and literally get their hands dirty while learning about local foods," says Erin Gill, the City's director of sustainability. "Beardsley Community Farm is the premier example of a community garden on a park site that showcases urban agriculture while providing interactive learning opportunities."

Last year, the urban farm, located within the City's Malcolm-Martin



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Visitors throng the Farmers' Market in Market Square. Knoxville has launched a new online map showing the locations of farmers' markets and community gardens across the region.



A rendering of a new education center at Beardsley Farm.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Park, and managed by the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee, grew nearly 11,000 pounds of produce to donate to area food banks and shelters, while also educating roughly 500 students about the benefits of sustainable urban gardening, says farm manager Khann Chov.

More Knoxville residents will soon benefit from Beardsley Farm's new

1,200-square-foot education center funded by the City of Knoxville that will include a covered outdoor classroom, space to process honey and vegetables, and green building amenities like energy-efficient appliances that can be used during cooking classes.

"Our goal is to have a functional building by the end of the calendar year," Chov says. "I am really proud

Community gardens and farmers' markets in parks

Community gardens

- CAC Beardsley Community Farm – Malcolm Martin Park
- Larry Cox Recreation Center – 3109 Ocoee Trail (managed by CAC)
- Dr. Walter Hardy Park – 2020 MLK Jr. Ave. (managed by CAC)

Farmers' markets

- Knoxville FARM Market – Lakeshore Park (April-November)
- Nourish Knoxville – Market Square/Krutch Park (May-November)

Visit the Knoxville Food System Map to find community gardens and farmers' markets in the region:

knoxvilletn.gov/government/sustainability/

of the work Beardsley Farm has done, but I'm really excited about filling the gap, showing and teaching people that now that you can grow food, here's what you can do with it, that with proper ingredients and a few spices, you can create something nutritious for your family."

Barbara Kelly, CAC's executive director, says City funds, private donations and thousands of volunteer hours have been invested to make the new center a reality.

"We're not just sustaining the environment, we're sustaining one another," she says. "We're not just growing vegetables, we're growing the community."

"In many cases — especially downtown — our parks can serve as an extended backyard to residents," says Joe Walsh, Parks and Recreation Director.

"Multiuse parks are just that — playing multiple roles for many different players. Gardens are another dimension of green space use that's drawing enthusiastic participation in parks all over the country."

Promoting recycling increases sustainability

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

A crowd attending a baseball game on any given hot, sunny day at one of Knoxville's many parks can drink a lot of water, resulting in plenty of discarded plastic bottles.

"Our experience is that there's a lot of recycling material related to recreation events," says Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh.

So the City invested \$27,000 in capital funds to implement a park recycling program. It purchased 430 new bins to outfit each of its parks with recycling receptacles and replace outdated trash cans.

"This was an important step for advancing sustainability in Knoxville," says Erin Gill, the City's director of sustainability. "Recycling is a method for people to engage with sustainability in a way that isn't so intimidating. It's something everyone can feel good about and everyone can take a role in."

The new bins have secure lids and regular pick-up schedules, which City officials hope will reduce the amount of waste that ends up in nearby waterways and landfills.

"We're proud to be a part of getting people into the habit of recycling – especially to get kids in the practice at an early age," Walsh says. "We've been in this program for nearly two years now, and we are still working to tweak it, to better serve our park users."

As another way to promote sustainability, the City has partnered with the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN), with funding from a Tennessee Department of Health grant, to install water bottle filling stations this summer in nine locations across Knoxville, including in six parks.

"If we can encourage folks to bring refillables, they're less likely to buy or use bottled water," says Renée Hoyos, TCWN's executive director.

The stations, most of which also include drinking fountain bubblers and pet water bowls courtesy of PetSafe, are part of the network's statewide "Bring Tap Back" initiative to eliminate obesity and reduce diabetes by making drinking water more readily available so people will choose the healthy alternative over sugar-filled drinks.

Hoyos says TCWN plans to launch a mobile application this fall that will allow people to locate the stations, as well as report stations that need maintenance.

In another project, the City has made 24 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations available in parks and other public places, including parking spaces in the Market Square Garage and the Knoxville Civic Auditorium and Coliseum that are equipped with solar panels.

With solar energy being another popular means



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH HARRIS

Recycle bins are emptied from Third Creek Greenway in Tyson Park.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY TENNESSEE CLEAN WATER NETWORK

A water bottle refill station in Harriet Tubman Park

on the sustainability front, Knoxville Parks and Recreation recently installed a solar-powered lighting at the Petsafe Downtown Dog Park.

"As downtown residents continue to increase,

Parks with Water Bottle Filling Stations

Market Square/Krutch Park, Ijams Nature Center, Victor Ashe, Harriet Tubman, Tyson and World's Fair parks, Christenberry Recreation Center, Ashley Nicole Dream Playground/Caswell Park, Knoxville Area Transit Station

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations:

Caswell Park - 2; Ijams Nature Center - 2; Jackson Ave. Parking Lot - 2; Knoxville Civic Auditorium/Coliseum Garage - 6; Market Square Parking Garage - 4; Sequoyah Park - 2; State Street Garage - 2; Victor Ashe Park - 2; West Hills Park - 2

we began to observe the need for the dog park to be open, especially in the winter, beyond daylight hours so that people could take their dogs out after work," Walsh says. "It's great to be able to provide recreation amenities needed by the community that also happen to cover their own utility expenses. These are the kind of innovative steps we look to make in order to better serve the public with the most fiscally responsible approaches possible."

Tying in appreciation of Knoxville's history

By LAURA AYO

Custom Publishing correspondent

A redesigned entrance to Fort Dickerson Park will greet hundreds of schoolchildren and visitors when they arrive in November to learn about the role Knoxville played in the Civil War. “We will have exhibits, historical talks, fort tours and discuss why Knoxville Civil War history is important,” says Dennis Urban, president of the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable, a nonprofit educational organization that hosts the annual Living History Weekend and helps the City maintain the fort. “If we can ignite people’s interest with what we do with the Living History Weekend at Fort Dickerson, (located right off Chapman Highway), they hopefully will want to learn more about the other sites around the city of Knoxville.”

City leaders recognize the value in designing parks and trails to connect Fort Dickerson to other nearby earthen forts and historic sites that played a role in defending Knoxville during the Confederate siege in 1863.

“We have people coming in who are avid history buffs who want to learn more about Knoxville’s history through the park system,” says Knoxville Parks and Recreation Director Joe Walsh.

So the City has partnered with the Legacy Parks Foundation and Aslan Foundation to develop a segment of its



PHOTO BY TAMMIE MCCARROLL-BURROUGHS, PROVIDED BY THE CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Three Civil War cannon replicas reside in Fort Dickerson Park.

Urban Wilderness Corridor overlooking the Tennessee River that will be known as “Battlefield Loop.”

“A key part of that was the City’s re-designing of the entrance to Fort Dickerson,” says Carol Evans, executive director for the Legacy Parks Foundation. “That’s really an important historic asset, but it was very difficult to get to beforehand.”

Now that the City has improved access to the park, Evans says the next phase involves figuring out how to connect it with the nearby Fort Stanley, Fort Higley and the site of the Battle of Armstrong’s Hill.

“It’s all very integrated with the experience of being outdoors and helping

people get a sense of the land and who came before you,” she says. “I love the fact that someone can go looking for a fort and accidentally take a walk.”

As the groups collaborate to make Battlefield Loop become a reality, Knoxville Parks and Recreation has found other innovative ways to tie appreciation for the City’s history to its parks and greenways.

Its “Selfie with a Statue” photo contest brought residents to places such as Volunteer Landing for a picture with the monument commemorating the signing of the Treaty of the Holston, as well as other historic sites.

“We have our sports, golf courses and tennis courts, but then we also

Living History Civil War Weekend

Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Fort Dickerson Park
3201 Chapman Highway

Free event will feature:

- Living history campsites
- Infantry drilling and firing
- Civil War medical & surgical exhibit
- Ladies fashions
- Battle re-enactments

Places in history in Knoxville parks

- Fort Dickerson – Fort Dickerson Park
- Native American Burial Mound – Sequoyah Greenway
- Ross Marble Quarry – Ijams Nature Center
- Hillsman Family Cemetery – Victor Ashe Park
- Civil War Redan – Third Creek Greenway (Sutherland Entrance)
- Treaty of Holston Statue – Mouth of First Creek on Neyland Greenway

have other things people like to do, too. We want to encourage people to get outside and have fun and recreate,” Walsh says. “If you can combine physical exercise with education, it doesn’t hurt anything.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Knoxville Parks & Recreation Department staff members



THE CITY HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

www.knoxvilletn.gov